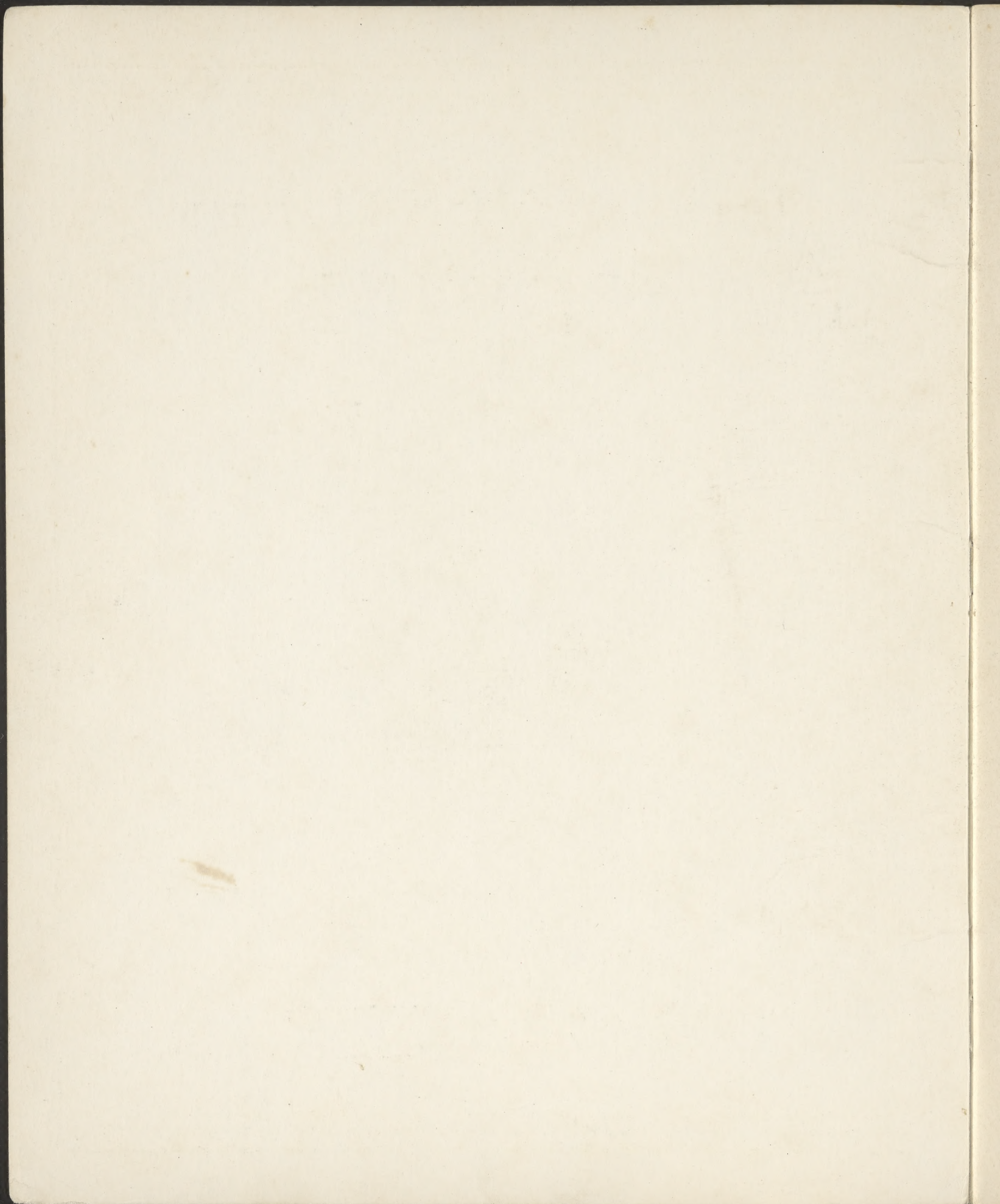


the Adventures of Tommy



by
H·G·WELLS



THE ADVENTURES OF TOMMY

BY
H · G · W E L L S

Illustrated in colours by the author



Published by
THE ARTISTS AND WRITERS GUILD
POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK

New Romney

"... In 1898 he was very ill and we put him to bed at once, where he remained for six weeks, devotedly nursed by his wife.

"One day Mrs. Wells came down and said to my wife, 'Can you find something for H. G. to play with, he is intensely bored, he is tired of reading and there is nothing else for him to do?' They went together to the children's play-room, and, seeing a child's colour box, Mrs. Wells said, 'Oh, that is the very thing, he can amuse himself with that ever so long.' She took it up to him, and a few days later brought down this little book for my youngest daughter.

"The character of Tommy was claimed by my younger boy, who the next Christmas received an elephant full of sweets labelled 'Tommy Bates. With great care.'

"Mr. Wells now allows publication."

"HENRY HICK."

This fragment of a letter from Henry Hick explains the origin of "*The Adventures of Tommy*."

Respectfully dedicated to

Miss Marjory Hick

By her sincere friend & admirer

H. G. Wells

AUTHORIZED AMERICAN EDITION.—PUBLISHED, 1935, BY THE ARTISTS AND WRITERS GUILD
PRINTED IN U. S. A.



There was once a very
rich proud man. He was
so rich & proud that he wore
diamonds for buttons & two gold
watches jewelled in every hole &
rings four or five on each
finger, & gold lace round his
clothes — he was so rich
& proud.

There was once a very rich proud man. He was so rich
and proud that he wore diamonds for buttons and *two*
gold watches jewelled in *every* hole; and rings, four or
five on each finger, and gold lace round his clothes —
he was so rich and proud.

And he always went about with a face like this:

And he always
went about with a face
like this



Did you ever see such a
proud expression?

Did you ever see such a proud expression?



But pride goeth
before a fall

But pride goeth before a fall!

And one day as he was walking along a cliff, he stepped over and fell into the sea—

and one day as he was
walking along a cliff, he
stepped over & fell into the



And he would certainly have
been drowned but —

Splash!

And he would certainly have been drowned, but—



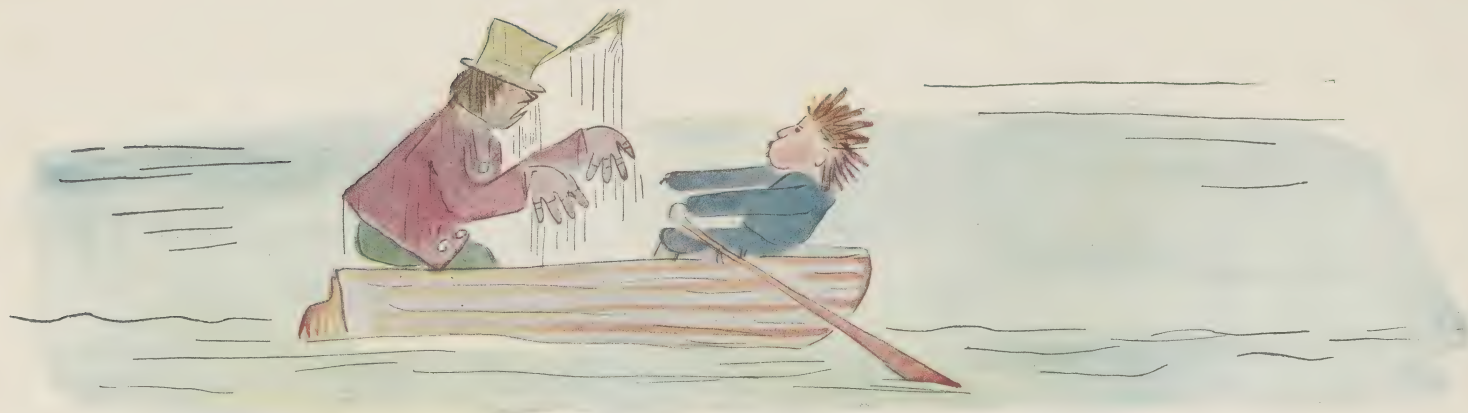
a very nice boy named ^(This was not his *real* name) Tommy who happened to be fishing for sharks with some bait his grandfather had made for him, saw the accident,

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& fished him out again & so saved his life .

and fished him out again and so saved his life.



The rich proud man was very wet and kept sneezing (showing he
had caught cold) so ^(Not his real name you know) Tommy rowed him home at once
& his ^(Tommy's father I mean not the rich man's) father (who was I fancy a doctor though I am
not sure)

The rich proud man was very wet and kept sneezing
(showing he had caught cold) so Tommy (not his real
name, you know) rowed him home at once and his father
(Tommy's father, I mean, not the rich man's) (who was, I
fancy, a doctor though I am not sure,)



hung him over the clothes
horse to dry thoroughly and

hung him over the clothes horse to dry thoroughly and



*gave him some nasty
medicine & made him all
right again .*

gave him some nasty medicine and made him
all right again.



Now the rich man was very grateful to Tommy for having saved his life and wanted to give him a thousand pounds (£1000) he had in his pocket.

But Tommy had been told never to take money from strangers and refused this

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But Tommy had been told never to take money from strangers and refused this.

"Oh" said the rich man, "I must give you something."

"A good deed is its own Reward" said Tommy.

They talked a long time and at last Tommy said that if the rich man really wanted to make him a present he could get him a pet animal to have for his very own.

And with that the rich man went away.



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They talked a long time and at last Tommy said that if the rich man really wanted to make him a present, he could get him a pet animal to have for his very own.

And with that the rich man went away.



But when the rich man went to the animal shop he was much too proud to buy Tommy a kitten or a dog or a rabbit or white mice or a lamb or a pony or a pigeon or a parrot or a porcupine or a gollifer or a woggle or any ordinary pet animal like that .

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He wanted something larger and more expensive. He went to one animal shop after another. One shop was full of monkeys and another of guinea pigs but no! they were not magnificent enough.



At one shop was a tiger but he did not buy that because he doubted if Tommy's mother would like him to have such a pet - mothers are sometimes so particular.

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And it was only after hunting all day in all the animal shops of London that he found at last just the very thing he wanted.

“Pack it carefully,” he said, “and send it per South Eastern Railway, carriage paid, to New Romney to Master Tommy Bates (this was not his real name), enclose my card and send the bill in to me. And before you send him off, take him round to the place where they paint letters on people’s trunks and have a nice large T B painted on both sides of him.

All of which they did accordingly.

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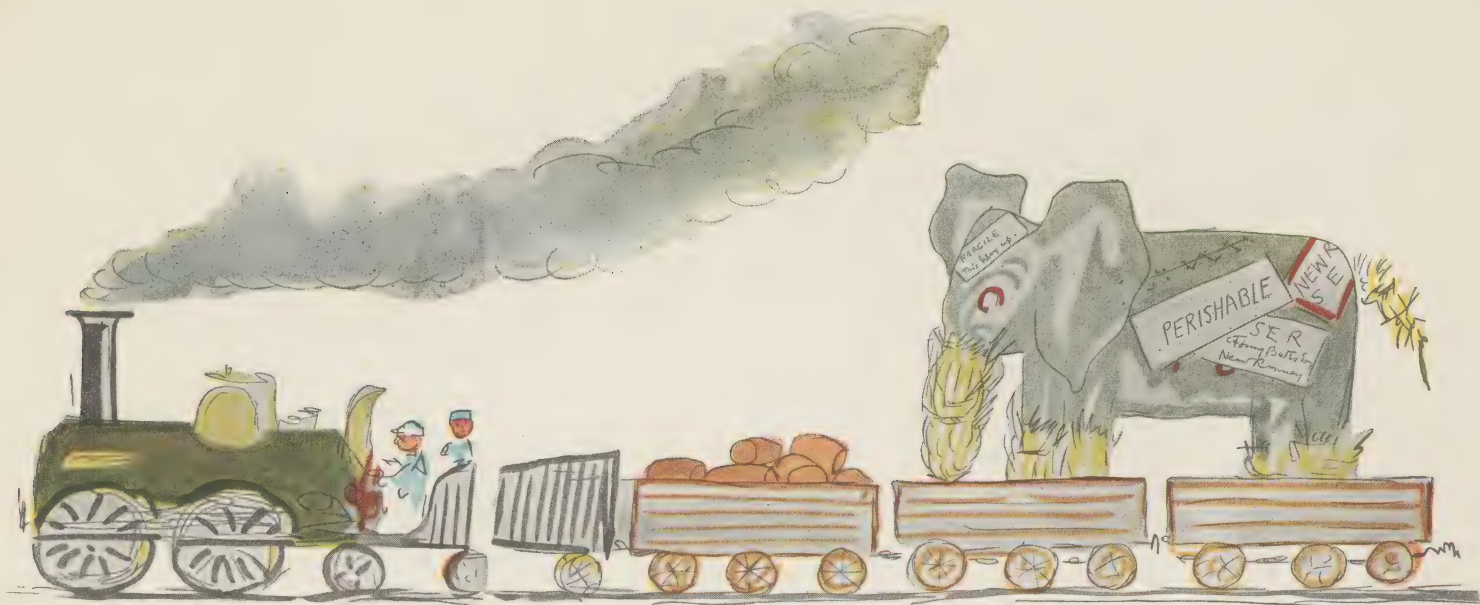
round to the place where they paint letters on

people's trunks & have a nice large T B painted on both sides of him."

All of which they did accordingly.



They packed the elephant very carefully, (you see they have done his trunk and tail and feet with straw) and sent him off by South Eastern express delivery, as the rich man had ordered. And in less than a month a train brought him into New Romney safe and sound; so swift and perfect has the railway traffic of our country districts become.



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And the proud rich man got
some new feathers for his hat
& thought no more of the
matter

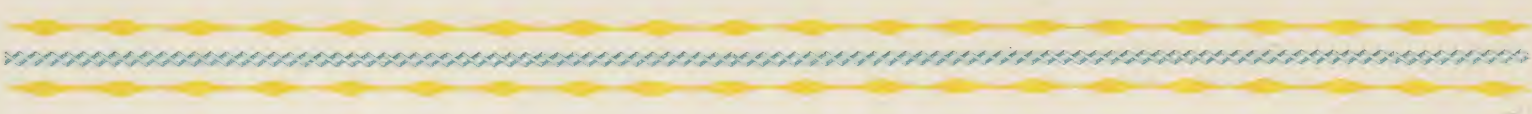


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*You may judge how surprised Tommy and his father were
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were when a railway porter brought along this beauti-
ful present.



Tommy was delighted and while his father signed the porter's book he unpacked the elephant's trunk and gave it some sugar and ran for a ladder so that he might climb up and pat it. And he decided at once that he would call this new pet Augustus, after the Roman emperor of that name.

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emperor of that name.

And all that Tommy did with Augustus and all that Augustus did with Tommy will perhaps be written someday in another book.



And all that Tommy did with Augustus and all that Augustus did with Tommy will perhaps be written some day in another book.

GTSX

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